

A Jerry Baker Home Hints Book

Don't You  
**DARE**  
Throw It  
**OUT!**



**301**  
**Terrific**

Trash-to-Treasure  
Ideas for Clearing  
Your Clutter and  
Stowing Your Stuff

# THERE'S GOLD IN YOUR GARAGE!

There's nothing quite like being able to save some money when you have the opportunity—unless it's the chance to save money twice! Well, listen up, my friends, because there are jewels in your attic and gold in your garage. Need some terrific ideas? Here are 301 of them!

## Aluminum Cans

### *Do the Can-Can!*

**Tip #1** Turn those large coffee cans into flower planters. Punch a few holes in the bottoms to allow for drainage, decorate the outsides (if you like), and fill 'em full of plants!

**Tip #2** If there's a smoker in your family (or if you ever have a visitor who smokes), use old cans as ashtrays. Fill the can with some sand, add a little baking soda (to absorb odors), and place in your car or out on your deck or patio where they'll be handy.

**Tip #3** Find an old bread recipe and bake it in a large coffee can—the loaf will take on a wonderful mushroom shape!

**Tip #4** Save the plastic lid that comes with coffee cans and reuse the can to store your flour or sugar in.

**Tip #5** Decorate the outside of a clean, empty soup can and use it as a pen and pencil holder on your desk.

**Tip #6** Tote those old cans out to the garage or workshop and use them to store your paint brushes in.

**Tip #7** In a pinch, you can use a clean and dry tuna can as a biscuit or cookie cutter. Cut off the lid and the bottom, and cut right through the dough!

**Tip #8** Transform a large coffee can into a mini trash can. Slip a small plastic bag inside and use it in the car, yard, on the patio, or even in a bathroom!

**Tip #9** Small, clean cans of any size make a terrific scoop for everything from dry pet food and kitty litter to the salt you use to de-ice your driveway!

### BONUS TIP

✓ Out of bait? Well, that's no reason to stop fishin'—just twist up a piece of aluminum foil—even a gum wrapper—it'll turn into a fish foolin' minnow right before your eyes!

## Bath Towels

***Don't throw them away just because they're too shabby to even dry the dog with!***

- Tip #10** Wash old towels one last time and cut them down into cleaning and polishing cloths. They're great for washing the car and all around the house.
- Tip #11** Old towels can still provide cozy bedding for the bottom of your pet's traveling crate—they love it!

## Bed Sheets

***Too worn for the bed? Try these nifty uses!***

- Tip #12** They're perfect to use as wrapping material when you need to store items such as quilts and blankets. The sheets keep the dust off, but let the fabric breathe, unlike plastic, which traps in moisture and creates the ideal environment for mildew.
- Tip #13** Next time you need a big "Welcome Home" or "Happy Birthday" or "Yard Sale Ahead" banner, just use bright poster or tempera paint and write your message right on the sheet.
- Tip #14** Use a couple of clean, old bed sheets to cover up your classic (or even not-so-classic) cars while they're not in use.
- Tip #15** Spend your hard-earned money on those fancy bibs for your next homemade lobster supper? Not on your life! Just pull out the old, clean sheets (the ones you were going to throw away), and make your own washable—and reusable—bibs.
- Tip #16** Need casual napkins for a family dinner? Cut those old, clean bed sheets into 12- by 12-inch squares, hem the borders, and you've got the perfect solution!
- Tip #17** Time to paint inside the house? Those old bed sheets can double as great drop cloths!
- Tip #18** The next time the kids or grandkids are itchin' for something to do outside, hand them a couple of clean, old bed sheets. The little ones will have a grand old time turning them into tents and forts.
- Tip #19** Time to take Fido to the vet? Place a clean, old bed sheet in the bottom of his crate or pet carrier to make it warmer and cozier.

- Tip #20** What with all the tools, spare tire, beach chairs, and other stuff you store in your car's trunk, it can get pretty dirty. Why not line your trunk with a clean, old bed sheet to keep it spic and span?
- Tip #21** When it comes time to rake up your leaves, use an old bed sheet to gather them up and haul 'em to the compost pile.
- Tip #22** If you're lucky enough to have an old movie projector in your attic—you know, the kind that actually shows film—here's a way to have some good old summer evening, outdoor fun. Stretch an old bed sheet between two trees, over a laundry line or over the badminton net—anywhere you can project some of those old home movies. If you don't have a projector, you may be able to borrow one (and films, to boot) from your local library.

## Belts

***Gain a bit of weight and now your old belt doesn't fit? Not to worry; here's a great idea!***

- Tip #23** Punch some new holes in that old belt and the kids will have a dandy, old-fashioned way to carry their books to school.

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ If Fido needs a walk but you can't find the leash, just grab a long leather belt. Run it beneath his collar and through the buckle, and head out!

## Plastic Berry Baskets

***Some berry, berry good ideas here!***

- Tip #24** Wash and dry a few, place them in your dresser drawer, and use them to sort your socks and stockings.
- Tip #25** Take a basket into your home office area (or wherever it is you pay your bills), and use it to organize small notepads, erasers, binder clips, glue sticks, and the like.
- Tip #26** Put a clean berry basket on your kitchen sink and keep your sponges inside—it won't rust, either!
- Tip #27** A clean berry basket makes a terrific dresser-top organizer for your hair ribbons, chapstick, lipstick, combs, and brushes.

## Bobby Pins

*When you're not using them to do your hair, try these uses.*

- Tip #28** In a pinch, you can use an old bobby pin as a paperclip.
- Tip #29** A good old-fashioned bobby pin makes a great nail holder. Hold the nail between the open ends so you won't mash your fingers when trying to drive a little brad into the wall.

## Bottle Caps

*These have got to go out with the trash, right? Not on your life!*

- Tip #30** Paint bottle caps green and red, then glue them onto a sheet of paper cut in the shape of a Christmas tree. It makes for a dandy holiday ornament!
- Tip #31** Have you lost the little top hat or the car from your Monopoly game? Use a bottle cap!
- Tip #32** Save 24 bottle caps. Paint or color 12 of them red and the other 12 black, and play a game of checkers.
- Tip #33** Paint metal bottle caps in various colors, then glue them onto an old, ugly picture frame to make a brand new one.
- Tip #34** White plastic soda bottle tops can be used as teeny, tiny paint cups when you've got just a small job to tackle.
- Tip #35** Keep a white plastic soda bottle top near your desk, along with a few cotton swabs. When you need to clean around your computer keyboard, pour a little rubbing alcohol into the cap (it's just like a little bucket), dip the swab into the alcohol, and clean away!

## Bottles (prescription)

*These ideas are just what the doctor ordered!*

- Tip #36** Clean prescription bottles are the perfect size for storing cotton swabs when you travel.
- Tip #37** If you don't want to take an entire bottle of lotion with you on a trip, put some in a prescription bottle. Put the bottle in a small ziplock baggie (just in case it leaks a little), and you're off!
- Tip #38** Use an empty prescription bottle to make a travel sewing kit. Inside place a needle or two, pieces of thread of various colors, and a thimble.

**Tip #39** Use an empty prescription bottle to make a travel first aid kit. Place a couple of Band-Aids, some foil packets of antibiotic ointment, a wet nap, and an alcohol swab inside.

**Tip #40** Use an empty prescription bottle to store vitamins or aspirin when you travel—make sure to re-label the bottle clearly.

**Tip #41** Stuff a piece of sponge in an empty prescription bottle so that it sticks out the top. Then, when you need to dampen stamps, just moisten the sponge—no more dry tongue!

## Bricks

*Even if you don't have enough to build a house, you can still put old bricks to good use.*

- Tip #42** Wrap an old, red brick in pretty scrap fabric, and use it as a door stop.
- Tip #43** Wrap a couple of old bricks in a couple of scraps of pretty fabric, and use them as bookends! Use fabric that matches your drapes or furniture, or change your colors for the holidays and seasons!
- Tip #44** Save old bricks and use them as a rustic garden edging.

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ When those aches and pains settle in, don't grab a hot-water bottle; grab a brick instead! Heat a clean one in the oven and wrap it in a towel.

## Broom Handles

*If you don't know any witches who need them, keep those old broom handles for yourself.*

- Tip #45** Broken broom handles make sturdy beanpoles.
- Tip #46** Use an old broom handle as a walking stick when you go for a hike.
- Tip #47** Two broom handles can hold a big, eye-catching banner announcing your yard or garage sale.
- Tip #48** Feeling creative? Nail or tie several old broom handles together to make a homemade garden trellis.



**Tip #49** Keep an old broom handle near your compost bin and use it to turn and stir your compost pile.

**Tip #50** Use that old broom handle as a bat for a game of stick ball.

**Tip #51** Wrap an old T-shirt around the end of an old broom handle, and use it to get those cobwebs out of the corners of your rooms.

## Buckets

***Sure, it may have a leak or two, but that doesn't mean it can't be useful***

**Tip #52** Take that old bucket out to your shed and use it to organize hand tools. Fill it with sand, and you'll have a great tool bin!

**Tip #53** Here's a great alternative to growing petunias in just any old container and having to forever cut them back. Start with an old plastic bucket. Wash it out really, really well, and cut several holes—each about three inches in diameter—in the sides all around the bucket. Now hang the bucket up by its handle so that you can work with it easily. Place one little baby petunia plant in each hole so that the greens of the plant hang out the side. Now fill the bucket with the rest of your soil, put a few more plants in up top, and hang the whole shebang up where you want it to grow. As the plants begin to mature, they'll grow down the sides of the bucket, giving you a beautiful cascade of flowers all summer long. And there's a bonus: It's a real conversation starter!

### BONUS TIPS

- ✓ To reach the ceiling easier, attach a pair of old work shoes to two sturdy metal buckets. Flip the buckets upside down, and drive screws through the soles of the shoes into wooden blocks inside the buckets. Now you've got your own homemade stilts!
- ✓ How about an easy Christmas tree stand? Just fill a bucket with damp sand or gravel, and add the tree!
- ✓ There's nothing quite like a lobster feast. But what do you do if your kettle's not large enough? You guessed it—boil that lobster in an old metal bucket!

## Business Cards

***Your title changed, and you're stuck with 750 business cards with your old title on them. Now what?***

**Tip #54** Old business cards are just the right size for the label holder on the front of most filing cabinets.

**Tip #55** Next time you need a reminder, write it on the back of an old business card, and tuck it into your wallet or pocket.

**Tip #56** Use old business cards to make garden labels. Write the name of each plant (peppers, carrots, tomatoes) on the back of several cards, then cover with clear contact paper. Glue or staple them to popsicle sticks, and you'll never forget which plants are where.

**Tip #57** If you can your own tomatoes or jams (and by golly you should), make labels for the jars using old business cards. Cover the labels with clear contact paper and you'll look like a real pro!

**Tip #58** Glue two business cards together so that the blank sides face out. Decorate one or both sides and use the cards as gift tags.

**Tip #59** Use old business cards to make labels for your cardboard storage boxes. You keep the box looking neat because you're writing on the card—and not on the box—and when you change the contents of the box, you can just tape on a new card.

**Tip #60** Use old business cards as bookmarks.

**Tip #61** Stash several old business cards near your telephone, and use them to copy messages.

**Tip #62** Glue two business cards together so that the blank sides face out. Write your name and address on both sides, then laminate the cards with clear contact paper. Punch a hole in the card, attach it to your suitcase, and—presto!—a luggage tag.

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ Need a quick sanding block for a hard-to-sand area? Grab a deck of playing cards. Wrap the sandpaper around the deck, and push the edge against the area you want to sand. The cards will take on the shape of the object, giving you an oh-so-smooth finish.

## Canoe Paddle

*Canoe think of some more uses? (Sorry! I couldn't resist.)*

**Tip #63** Paint your house number on the paddle and plant it about a foot deep in front of your home to add a nautical touch to your yard.

## Cardboard Tubes

*The paper's gone, but a tube's life can go on.*

**Tip #64** Use a paper towel tube to store a piece of embroidery or other needlework you're not displaying at the moment. Rolling is better for the fabric than folding.

**Tip #65** Fill a bucket with paper towel tubes and into each insert one artists' paint brush, handle-down. It will protect the bristles and also keep the brushes separated.

**Tip #66** Stuff your socks or stockings into toilet paper tubes (or paper-towel tubes that you've cut down), and place them in your dresser drawer. The tubes will protect the stockings and keep them from running. It'll also keep pairs of socks together. How's that for handy?

**Tip #67** Here's one of my favorites: Cut toilet paper and paper towel tubes into one-inch lengths and decorate them. Then use them as holiday napkin rings! Get the kids or grand kids to help—they'll love it!

**Tip #68** Can't reach that cobweb in the corner? No problem—use a long empty cardboard tube to extend your reach. And you can even flatten one end to make a handy crevice tool.

**Tip #69** Use paper towel tubes to organize your knitting needles. Fill a plastic tub or bucket with the tubes and put a pair of needles into each tube. Or, keep all the no. 5s together, all the no. 8s together, and so on. Use toilet paper tubes to store crochet needles.

**Tip #70** If you have some leftover molding from a recent decorating project, keep it organized in leftover cardboard mailing tubes.

### BONUS TIPS

- ✓ When you've really got something important to say, say it through a cardboard tube—it's an instant megaphone!
- ✓ Cut notches in the ends of the cardboard tubes to make "logs." They're great for building toy cabins!

## Cards

*Can't bear to throw away those Christmas, Easter, Chanukah, and birthday cards? You don't have to!*

**Tip #71** Make a new card. Just fold a piece of paper the same size as the old card in half. Then glue the front of the old card onto the front of the new one. Write your note on the inside and you're all set!

**Tip #72** If the inside cover (the left side of the card when it's open) isn't written on, simply cut that part off and save it for the next time you need a card. When it's time to send it, you don't need an envelope; just address the back, postcardlike. You'll save on buying a new card, and the postcard postage costs less than sending a letter first class!

**Tip #73** Keep a stack of old cards near your phone and use them as scrap paper. They're great for writing messages on.

**Tip #74** Old cards make for all sorts of dandy holiday decorations. Grab a clean soup can (no sharp edges, please), and glue the card to the outside. Line the inside with some colorful tissue paper, and fill it with candies or small gifts.

**Tip #75** Save all the cards you receive and affix them to a large corkboard. They'll make a beautiful background!

**Tip #76** Make wipeable place mats with old cards. Start with several pieces of cardboard about 8 inches wide and 14 inches long. Glue the cards onto the cardboard, trimming any excess. Now laminate the whole thing (both sides) with some clear contact paper. Make sure the contact paper extends over the edges by at least 1/4 inch.

**Tip #77** Cut the front of the cards into smaller sizes, and use them as gift tags.

**Tip #78** Keep a few of the sturdier cards you receive in your automobile glove box, and use them as scrapers to remove a light dusting of snow.

### BONUS TIPS

- ✓ Cut out the center of a pretty card, and tape a favorite picture inside it. Close the card, and presto! An original photograph!
- ✓ When writing out those great family recipes, use the back of an old greeting card picture.

## Carpet Scraps

*Don't ever throw these away!*

- Tip #79** Cut down old carpet scraps, and use them to line your pet's bed, kennel, crate, or travel container.
- Tip #80** Keep your garden paths weed free by laying carpet scraps down, and covering them with mulch, straw, or grass clippings.
- Tip #81** If the carpet scrap is big enough, take it to a local carpet dealer and have the edges finished; then you can use it as an area rug!
- Tip #82** Spend a lot of time outdoors in the winter, say, ice fishing? Use those carpet scraps to make liners for your boots. Just trace an insole and when you head outside, your toes will stay warm and toasty.
- Tip #83** Use old carpet scraps to make welcome mats for all your doors. The bonus? They'll keep dirt from outside . . . outside!
- Tip #84** Ride in style and use carpet scraps to replace your car mats.
- Tip #85** Protect the bottom of your trunk from messy tools or spilled groceries by setting all of that stuff on top of carpet scraps.
- Tip #86** Nail or staple carpet scraps to a 2 x 4 to make a homemade kitty scratching post. For an extra treat, scent it with catnip.
- Tip #87** If you're stuck on ice or snow, give yourself some extra traction by sliding a couple of good-sized carpet scraps under the tires.
- Tip #88** Carpet scraps can protect any floor! Lay them around your garage or basement and anything you put on them, from leaky containers to dirty boots, will stay on the scraps and off the floor.
- Tip #89** Cut down carpet scraps (if necessary) and take them to the ballgame. Put them on the bleachers as a seat cushion to protect your, um, seat.

### BONUS TIPS

- ✓ If you're in a jam for a paint roller, glue a piece of thick carpeting to a block of wood. It won't roll, but it's still a great painting pad.
- ✓ Make your own coasters out of carpet scraps. Pick scraps that match the flooring, and cut 'em into any shape you want!

## Christmas Tree

*Can't see tossing that (formerly) live evergreen into the trash after the holiday is over? Don't do it!*

- Tip #90** This idea's for the birds! Leave your tree out in the backyard as a shelter for birds in the winter. Plan ahead and give the birds a treat by decorating the tree with garlands of popcorn and cranberries.
- Tip #91** Shake the tree before you throw it away and collect all the needles. Set them in a bowl in your bathroom and the needles will give off a fresh pine scent for months to come.
- Tip #92** Put that tree through a chipper and use the wood chips as mulch.

## Wine Corks

*Have another glass, because there's plenty to do with the left-over corks. Cheers!*

- Tip #93** Punch a hole through the side of a painted wine cork (near one end). Pass a small chain or key ring through it. Voilà!—you have a floating key chain for the boat or pool locker key.
- Tip #94** Attach several wine corks together with household glue to make a gourmet's trivet.
- Tip #95** Glue lots and lots of corks to a piece of thin wood, and you've got a bulletin board!

## Lip Balm Tubes

*Once your chapped lips are healed, there's lots to do with that little container.*

- Tip #96** Take out the little do-hickey that holds the balm and use the tube to carry matches when you go camping.
- Tip #97** Here's another of my favorites—it's just so clever! Once the lip balm is all gone, take out the little do-hickey that holds the balm and use the container to carry a small sewing kit. Tuck a needle or two and some pieces of thread inside. If you take this camping, make sure to include some dental floss, too, which is strong enough to fix almost any tear.



## Clothing

*The shirt off your back can live a second, third, even fourth life!*

- Tip #98** Okay, if it absolutely, positively can't be salvaged, go ahead and cut it up and use it for cleaning rags.
- Tip #99** Donate old clothing to a local theater group or school for costumes. You can even take a tax deduction!
- Tip #100** Cut up old clothing, and use the scraps to make a quilt. If you don't quilt, give it to a friend or organization that does.
- Tip #101** Cut up old clothing, and use it to patch and mend other clothing—don't forget to salvage buttons and zippers, too.

## Computer Disks/CDs

*When your data goes bad, here are some other ways to use those marvels of modern technology.*

- Tip #102** Use disks or CDs as coasters. To make them more permanent, and pretty, glue some felt onto the bottom and some thin cork onto the top!
- Tip #103** CDs can be used as reflectors. Hang them anywhere you need to see where you're driving at night—on a tree or a fence, for instance.

## Dryer Lint

*What to do with the lint removed from your dryer? I simply won't allow you to throw it away!*

- Tip #104** Make it into a decorative fire starter for a friend's fireplace. Besides the lint, all you need is a paper egg carton to use as a mold, some old candle stubs, crayons or paraffin sealing wax, and some string for a wick. Place some of the dryer lint into the egg cups. Stand a length of string in the lint (of course, you'll have to hold it upright). Melt the wax in a double boiler and pour it into the cup, over the string and the lint. To make it more decorative or scented, you can add bits of cinnamon stick, pine cones or needles, cloves, old potpourri, confetti, anything that'll make the wax look and smell good. When the wax hardens a few hours later, peel your fire starters out of the paper egg carton, wrap them in decorative tissue paper, or tie them with a ribbon, and you've got the perfect gift for anyone with a fireplace or wood-burning stove.

## Duplicate Photos

*Those two-for-one deals that film processors offer can be great; but if you take a lot of pictures, those extras can pile up.*

- Tip #105** Cut up duplicate photos and use them to personalize invitations, birthday and holiday cards, and party place cards.
- Tip #106** Glue pictures to light cardboard, punch a hole in the top, and hang them on your Christmas tree.
- Tip #107** Donate them to a local school—kids will love to use your photos in the collages they make in art class.

## Egg Cartons

*The pressed cardboard ones are handy and dandy.*

- Tip #108** In spring, use each little compartment as a seed starter!
- Tip #109** Take advantage of all the tiny compartments in an egg carton. Use them to organize all of your crafts, sewing, or workshop supplies.
- Tip #110** A clean, empty egg carton makes a super place for kids to store their jewelry, treasures, and other goodies.

- Tip #111** Keep a clean, empty egg carton in a desk drawer and use it to organize paper clips, push pins, and the like.
- Tip #112** Have a small paint project? Use a clean, empty egg carton to hold small amounts of paint.

- Tip #113** Use all those compartments in an empty egg carton to store old game pieces, such as dice.
- Tip #114** Collect small change in it. You'll be able to keep your quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies separated—with room to spare!

### BONUS TIPS

- ✓ Egg cartons make great centipedes! Have the little ones (but not too little, please) cut out the compartments (you might get to help with this part) and string them together. Make legs and antennae out of pipe cleaners. It's a great rainy-day project.
- ✓ Need some extra storage for your Christmas ornaments? Use an empty egg carton to organize 'em. With all those handy compartments, you'll say "So long," to that ornamental mess!



## Fabric Scraps

*Here are some scrappy ideas!*

**Tip #115** Use glue sticks to affix scrap fabric onto a 2- by 6-inch piece of cardboard. Cover the whole thing with clear contact paper and you've got a beautiful bookmark! Make sure the contact paper extends over the edges of the cardboard by at least 1/4 inch.

**Tip #116** Cover a bulletin board with scrap fabric for a decorative look.

**Tip #117** Cut up spare fabric into long, narrow strips, and use them to tie up your tomato-laden plants come late summer.

**Tip #118** Not only are paper napkins expensive, they're wasteful. Instead, use your extra fabric to make napkins! Cut the pieces into 12- by 12-inch pieces, and hem the edges. The best part? They don't have to match!

**Tip #119** Bring back the '60s by using fabric scraps to patch up your favorite pair of worn-out blue jeans.

**Tip #120** Cut up a fancy scrap of fabric, lay it in the bottom of a glass dish, and sprinkle your favorite potpourri on top.

**Tip #121** Here's a way to spruce up your entire home. Use scrap fabric to make covers for your accent pillows. It's a great way to personalize your space.

**Tip #122** Feeling crafty? Buy a lampshade form and use fabric glue to attach fabric scraps to it. Brand new lamp!

**Tip #123** Gift bags are all the rage. Use your scrap fabric to make fancy pouches to present all sorts of gifts.

**Tip #124** Crochet fabric scraps together to make a rag rug.

**Tip #125** Use fabric scraps to make spare seat cushion covers.

**Tip #126** If you're a seamstress, use leftover scraps to make doll clothing for your favorite young one.

### BONUS TIPS

✓ Keep old film canisters in your toolbox: they're great for storing small nails, screws, nuts, or bolts.

✓ An old film canister makes a great container for AA or AAA batteries.

## Film Canisters

*These sure do pile up around the house, don't they? Put them to good use. If you use them to store any kind of food item, wash and dry them out well first.*

**Tip #127** Wash and dry film canisters, and use them to store seeds.

**Tip #128** Turn your old film canisters into all the hair rollers you'll ever need. Fasten in place with a hair clip.

**Tip #129** A film canister can be a treat container for kids. Insert small wrapped candies and hide them around the yard.

**Tip #130** Empty film canisters are terrific for storing small craft supplies, such as beads and glitter. Remember to label them so you can tell which is which.

**Tip #131** Make a handy stamp dispenser out of a film canister by cutting a narrow slot in the side, dropping the roll of stamps in, and feeding the stamps through the slot. Put the cap on and you're good to go!

**Tip #132** Use film canisters to store and organize hair accessories like bobby pins, hair ribbons, or ponytail holders.

**Tip #133** Film canisters are perfect for storing fishing flies, lures, hooks, and other small accessories. They're safe and sound, and waterproof, too!

**Tip #134** Turn your film canisters into salt and pepper shakers for your next picnic. For each canister, you'll need two lids. Punch holes in two of the lids; leave the other two lids intact. Pour salt in one canister and pepper in the other. Cap with the intact lids. When you get to your picnic spot, switch to the lids with holes, and you're ready to season that chicken salad!

**Tip #135** Fill a couple of film canisters with wooden matches for your next camping trip, and they'll stay high and dry for your next roaring campfire.

**Tip #136** Fill your extra film canisters with suntan lotion or Vaseline when you travel. Pop 'em in a plastic bag (just in case) and you're on your way!

**Tip #137** Want to drive your little kitty wild? Put a small bell inside a film canister, use a hot glue gun to seal it, and let her play with this toy.

### BONUS TIP

✓ Here's a great idea: tape a wick to the bottom of an empty film canister, and tie it to a toothpick. Lay the toothpick across the top, and fill the canister with melted wax. Tomorrow you'll have a new candle.

## Fishing line

***Quit fishing, but still have the stringy stuff around? It's good for so many things!***

- Tip #138** String beads on the line and make jewelry for yourself or as a gift for a friend or neighbor.
- Tip #139** Use old fishing line to string popcorn and cranberries for an old-fashioned Christmas tree garland.
- Tip #140** Hang a picture with it! Attach the line to the screw eyes on the back of a picture.
- Tip #141** Make a mobile. Grab an old hanger and use the fishing line to tie interesting items (photographs, small toys, etc.) from it.
- Tip #142** In a pinch, use fishing line to reattach buttons to your clothing—it's a lot stronger than thread!

## Flower Pots

***Just because the flowers are gone doesn't mean their memory can't live on . . .***

- Tip #143** Reuse plastic flower pots as seed starters.
- Tip #144** Use all sorts of old flower pots to organize your gardening hand tools.
- Tip #145** Clean out plastic flower pots, and place them under your bathroom sink to organize items such as brushes and combs, q-tips, and sponges.
- Tip #146** Clean up an old flower-pot and use it to present a garden-theme housewarming gift. Fill it with seeds, garden gloves, a hand-tool, and the like. Tie it up with a big ribbon.

## Garden Hose

***Put that leaky old thing to good use.***

- Tip #147** Slit open a length of old, leaky garden hose, and slip it over the wire handle of a bucket so that it doesn't cut into your hand.
- Tip #148** Slit open a length of garden hose, and slip it over an extension cord to protect it.

**Tip #149** Make your backyard swing set a whole lot safer by cutting lengths of old garden hose, and using them to cover the swing set chains. This will prevent little hands and fingers from getting pinched, squeezed, or twisted.

**Tip #150** Use sections of old garden hose to trap those devilish-looking earwigs. Simply put lengths of hose in and around areas where you've seen them scurrying, leave in place overnight, and dump the whole shebang in a bucket of hot, soapy water the next morning. That'll be all she wrote!

## Gloves

***Those ratty old gloves can still come in, um, handy.***

**Tip #151** Cut the tips off two glove fingers, and put them over the jaws of a pair of pliers or a wrench to keep them from marring whatever surface you're working on.

## Hubcaps

***Bet you thought I'd never come up with uses for these!***

- Tip #152** Flip an old hubcap over, fill it with sand, and use it as an ashtray on your porch or deck.
- Tip #153** Have loose change collecting all over your house? (Who doesn't!) Clean up an old hubcap and use it to collect your riches.

## Keys

***Unlock the secrets to using old keys!***

- Tip #154** Here's a tip Grandma Putt taught me: Slip a couple of old keys inside the hem of curtains. The keys weigh down the curtains and keep them hanging straight.
- Tip #155** Don't you hate it when someone uses too much tape to seal up a package they've sent you? Me too! I always keep a spare old key on my key chain. The edge is usually sharp enough to cut right through the tape, but it's a lot less dangerous than using a razor blade.
- Tip #156** Tired of collecting old keys? Put them to use! Attach them to the ends of pull-chains for ceiling fans and lights.

## Kitchen Utensils

### *Boy can they cook!*

- Tip #157** Throw an old spatula into the trunk of your car, and use it on a winter day as an ice scraper.
- Tip #158** The old metal spatula that's past its prime in the kitchen can have a second life as a paint scraper. Try it out the next time you need to remove some loose scaly paint before a paint job.
- Tip #159** An old butter knife makes a great letter opener!
- Tip #160.** That old spoon can serve double-duty as a hand tool when you replant your houseplants.
- Tip #161** Use that old fork with the bent tines as a mini-hoe for your delicate houseplants.
- Tip #162** Use an old egg beater to mix paint—just don't mix too hard or you'll end up with a lot of bubbles.
- Tip #163** A rolling pin can be an exercise aid! After a long walk, roll away the aches in your calves with an old rolling pin.

## Liquid Soap Dispensers

*If you don't refill these little pump bottles, they can start to pile up. Here are some clever re-use ideas.*

- Tip #164** Use that little pump bottle in the laundry room; no, not to wash your hands. I've got an even better idea. Rather, fill the soap dispenser with your favorite liquid laundry detergent and keep it right by your washing machine. Then, when you have a stain on an article of clothing, you can just give it a good spritz of detergent. Bye, bye stain!
- Tip #165** Fill an old pump bottle with liquid hand or foot lotion.

## Liquor

*If you've received a bottle of spirits and you're not a drinker, don't pour it down the drain, because there are still a few things you can do with it.*

- Tip #166** Use vodka or gin (neutral-flavored) as an astringent, after you shave or wash your face. Apply some with a cotton ball to close the pores.
- Tip #167** Apply vodka or gin to an insect bite—before you scratch—to stop the itch.

**Tip #168** Dip a pipe cleaner in whiskey to clean and sweeten the inside of a tobacco pipe stem.

**Tip #169** Add wine to food while you're cooking: red wine to spaghetti sauce, white wine to sauté sauce. Don't worry about the alcohol—it will evaporate.

## Magazines

*Done reading? Don't fret—there's plenty more to do with those old magazines.*

- Tip #170** Don't throw away those magazines just yet — you might find a few clever ads or pretty pictures inside to frame and hang on a wall.
- Tip #171** Stack up a bunch of old magazines, tie them together with twine, and use them as a footrest under your desk.

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ If you need to transfer dry kitty litter, sand, or salt to another container, make yourself a funnel. Just roll a magazine into a cone, tape it up, and funnel away!

- Tip #172** If all else fails, feed your old magazines through your paper shredder and use them as packing material.
- Tip #173** Here's something I learned from the Cub Scouts — how to turn an old magazine into a Thanksgiving centerpiece. First you'll need some old digest-sized magazines. Open one up and start folding each page's corners in to the center, toward the binding, leaving each page triangle-shaped. A spot of glue helps keep the flaps down. When the entire magazine is folded, spray paint the whole thing with gold metallic paint. (Kids should do this step with adult supervision, and everyone should paint in a well-ventilated area. Use a cardboard box to make a portable paint shed.) Now you can decorate it any way you want or you don't have to decorate it at all—those pages look pretty interesting just as they are. The last step is to cut the profile of a long-necked Tom turkey out of some construction paper. Lay the folded magazine open so that the pages stand up like the back end of a turkey, and glue on his head. With a little imagination, and if you squint, you've got a fine "bird-day" decoration.

## Mesh Bags

*Holey cow! What a terrific idea!*

- Tip #174** These sacks are just the thing to stow beach or bath toys.



## Milk Cartons (cardboard)

*If you thought only the plastic milk jugs were re-usable, you'd better think again!*

- Tip #175** Cut off the top several inches of several quart- or half-gallon-sized milk cartons. Wash them out and use them to make giant ice cubes for your next party. They'll keep the punch cold for hours!
- Tip #176** Cut the tops off two clean and dry milk cartons (they need to be the same size) and fit one into the other to form a building block. Soon you'll have enough for the kids to build a playhouse they can crawl into!
- Tip #177** Follow the same steps as above, but add a ball, and you've got the makings of an indoor bowling game!
- Tip #178** Fill a clean milk carton with melted suet and birdseed. After the suet hardens, tear away the carton and hang the suet brick from the branch of a tree with a piece of twine. The birds will thank you for it.
- Tip #179** Here's a clever way to keep a bottle of soda or wine chilled. Start with a clean and empty half-gallon milk carton and an empty bottle that is the same size as the beverage you'll be serving. Cut off just the top of the carton, place the bottle inside, and fill the carton (not the bottle) with water. Put the whole thing in your freezer until the carton of water is completely frozen. When you're ready to serve your beverage, slip the empty bottle out of the mold and replace it with the full bottle. It will stay ice cold!
- Tip #180** Cut the top several inches off quart- or half-gallon-sized milk cartons, wash and dry them, and use them to sort and store small items in your workshop such as screws, washers, and nails.
- Tip #181** Cut the top several inches off quart- or half-gallon-sized milk cartons, wash and dry them, and use them to sort and store small crafting or sewing items, such as needles, spools of thread, or bobbins. To make the boxes prettier, cover them with scraps of fabric.
- Tip #182** Every time you get a cardboard milk carton of any size, wash it out and cut the top several inches off. Start saving them. Then, when spring rolls around, use them to start your seeds. Make sure to puncture the bottom of the carton a few times so that the soil can drain.
- Tip #183** Use the bottoms of empty milk cartons as miniature paint buckets when you're doing crafts or touch-up painting.

**Tip #184** Use quart-size cartons to store 3-1/2-inch computer disks.

**Tip #185** Use the bottom of any size milk carton as a traveling food or water dish for your pet.

**Tip #186** Use the bottoms of empty milk cartons to scoop pet food, kitty litter, birdseed, or de-icing salt.

**Tip #187** Wash them well, dry them, cut them down, and use them to organize your sock drawer.

## Milk Crates

*Milk these for all they're worth!*

**Tip #188** Keep the stuff you store in your car's trunk—motor oil, windshield wiper fluid, ice scraper—organized and easy to reach.

**Tip #189** Organize those volumes of books in your basement or attic by stacking old milk crates on their sides and placing the books inside. You can stack 'em however you like to make your own, one-of-a-kind, bookcase!

**Tip #190** Milk crates are the perfect size for long-term storage of those letter-size file folders.

**Tip #191** Looking to save money?

Place three or four milk crates upside down and side by side. Top with a piece of plywood, cover with a tablecloth, and you've got a quick-and-easy coffee table.

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ **Need a new space helmet?** (No, it's not for you—it's for the kids!) Cut out the bottom of a plastic milk jug, and cut a face hole in the side. Now decorate with paper cutouts, pipe cleaners, and anything else your heart desires!

## Milk Jugs (plastic)

*They're not done until they're done!*

**Tip #192** Cordless drills are great around the house because you can tote them anywhere. But sometimes you need to have both hands free for a minute. What you need is a drill holster. Make one from a quart-size plastic milk bottle. Slice off the top down to the "shoulders." Then slice off the bottom and one half of one side. On the remaining side, cut two slices for belt loops, and there you have it!



## Muffin Tins

*Just because it's old and rusty doesn't mean it can't be useful.*

- Tip #193** Got an old muffin tin laying around? Use it to organize screws, nails, and the like in your workshop.
- Tip #194** We all have loose change laying around the house—why not organize it in that old muffin tin?

## Newspaper

*Extra! Extra! Get a load of all these uses!*

- Tip #195** Use the black and white pages to clean your windows.
- Tip #196** Old newspaper makes great kindling for your fireplace.
- Tip #197** Wrap gifts for kids with the comics section.
- Tip #198** Use it for papier-mâché projects. Help the kids or grandkids make their own piñata. Stuff in some candy, and let the party begin!
- Tip #199** Lay out sheets of newspaper by your front and back doors to soak up water in wet or snowy weather.
- Tip #200** Use it to paper train your puppy!
- Tip #201** Donate old newspaper to a local farmer—some use newspaper for cow bedding.
- Tip #202** Shred old newspaper and use it as packing material when you send something. (Make sure not to use it when you're sending something on which the newsprint could rub off.)
- Tip #203** Use black and white newspaper as mulch.

## Old Calendars

*Time to pat them to good use!*

- Tip #204** Save the pictures, frame them, and you'll have a new picture for your kitchen every month!
- Tip #205** Laminate the pictures from old calendars with clear contact paper (make sure the contact paper extends over the edge of the picture at least 1/4-inch) and use them as place mats.

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ Glue an old calendar page onto cardboard and cut it into pieces to make your own jigsaw puzzle.

## Old Checks

*Check out these uses!*

- Tip #206** Use old checks as notepads. Make sure to put them through your paper shredder before you throw them away.
- Tip #207** If the kids like to play "store" what better way to teach them about finance than to give them their own checking account—with old checks, of course! When the kids are done, put them through your shredder.

## Paint

*You painted the living room a year ago, but you still have that bit of leftover paint. Throw it away? No way!*

- Tip #208** Does this sound like your garage: three cans of paint, three different colors, each only a third full? Do what I do; as long as they're the same kind of paint (water or oil-based, flat or glossy), I mix them together. It doesn't always make a pretty color, but it's just the thing for small painting projects like the inside of a closet, a boiler room, or a work bench.
- Tip #209** Use small amounts of leftover paint for touch-ups and other small jobs that need doin'.
- Tip #210** Donate the leftover stuff to a school, church, or theater group.

## Panty Hose

*Don't run to the trash just because there's a little run in your brand-new stockings.*

- Tip #211** Make your own scrubby pad. Insert a sponge into the foot of an old (but clean) pair of stockings and the pantyhose will abrade the dirt away.

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ Patch up those holes in tent screens by sewing on patches of pantyhose.

- Tip #212** Use old pantyhose to buff your shoes to that "like-new" shine.
- Tip #213** Old stockings are great for storing mothballs in your closets.

**Tip #214** When it's time to tie up the tomatoes, there's nothing better—and less damaging—than that old pair of pantyhose. And you just might find that, even laundered, the stockings may have enough of your human scent left on them to discourage some critters from sampling your vegetables.

**Tip #215** Cut old pantyhose into long strips, and use them to secure the garbage bag to the garbage can; simply tie a knot to keep it in place.

**Tip #216** If your washer empties out into a sink, attach the pantyhose to the end of the drain hose with a rubber band to catch lint.

**Tip #217** Do the same with your dryer!

**Tip #218** Use old pantyhose to filter paint when you want to reuse it.

**Tip #219** If you grow cabbage or broccoli, you can protect it from insects, and make it look like it's about to rob a bank! Cut the stockings off at the knees, and slip the feet over the vegetables when they're small. As the vegetables grow, the pantyhose will expand and protect the heads from those marauding insects.

## Pie Plates

*My oh my—what you can do with old pie plates.*

**Tip #220** Save those old pie plates and use them to reheat food in your oven.

**Tip #221** When you go to your next potluck supper, cover the pie with an inverted pie plate. Tape it up and you're ready to go!

**Tip #222** I keep a few pie plates around in the workshop and whenever I have a project that requires dismantling something into small parts, I put the pieces in the pie plate.

**Tip #223** Here's a backyard game that you can make—and it's constructed entirely of recycled materials! You'll need two wire hangers, two 3-foot bamboo tomato plant stakes, and three or four disposable aluminum pie plates. First, unbend the hook part of each hanger so it stands up straight. Second, widen the other part of the hanger until it's an open diamond shape, large enough for a pie plate to pass through. Set the bamboo stakes in the ground, about 10 yards apart. Now, place the hangers into the stakes so the opening is on top. You now have two targets to aim your pie-plate-flying-saucers at. Throw them with a flick of the wrist, and award points to anyone who can put one through the hoop.

## Picture Frames

*Don't get hung up on old frames—put them to use!*

**Tip #224** Here's a clever way to use a small, old picture frame with an easel back. Take it with you into the kitchen and when you cook, place the recipe inside. The glass will keep the paper or card clean and the frame's easel back will keep it propped up.

**Tip #225** Picture frames aren't just for pictures! Use an old one to display a certificate or diploma in your game room.

**Tip #226** Going away for a while? Leave all your important information—where you'll be, emergency telephone numbers, and the like—in that old picture frame and hang it where your house-sitter can see it.

**Tip #227** Replace the glass in an old picture frame with a mirror. Keep it in the bathroom, on your nightstand, or even on the mantle.

## Plastic Inflatable Raft

*Even if you have one that has sprung an air leak, and is too dangerous to float, don't toss it.*

**Tip #228** Use that old raft as a snow sled. The kids'll love it!

## Plates, Dishes, and Glass

*These can "serve" many uses!*

**Tip #229** Use old saucers as coasters for your plants.

**Tip #230** Carefully break colorful crockery and use it to make a mosaic. Glue the chips in colorful patterns to almost anything—a picture frame, for instance, or a piece of plywood.

**Tip #231** If you're creative, even a scrap of glass won't go to waste. Carefully use a piece with three of the four sides wrapped in duct tape to scrape paint.

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ Use an old dishpan as a birdbath. Just set it into the ground and decorate the area with rocks and your favorite plants.

## Row Boat

*Make it a showboat!*

**Tip #232** My friend moved far from the lake, and that old, leaky dingy just took up room in his garage. His missus asked me if I had any suggestions—short of towing it to the dump, and of course, I did. I knew that with a little paint and a bunch of top soil, that old boat would make a dandy raised flower bed in front of his home. And do you know what? I was right!

## Shoeboxes

*These ideas are real shoe-ins!*

**Tip #233** Use old shoeboxes to store your photographs. Cover the box with scrap fabric to make it prettier.

**Tip #234** Turn old shoeboxes into building blocks for your kids or grandkids. Just tape the lids on and watch the little ones have a ball.

**Tip #235** Does your little one need a bank? Don't buy a piggy bank. Rather, let him make his own bank from an old shoebox. Cut a slit in the lid then give the box to your child or grandchild to decorate.

**Tip #236** Old shoeboxes make terrific gift boxes.

## Shoes

*Step right up to these clever uses!*

**Tip #237** An old, interesting shoe can be a delightful planter. Just put a small potted plant right inside.

**Tip #238** In a pinch, you can use an old shoe to hammer a nail! It works!

**Tip #239** Use an old shoe as a cup holder or coaster on your patio or deck.

**Tip #240** Fill an old, interesting shoe with ball bearings and use it as a door stop—and conversation starter!

## Plastic Shopping Bags

*Even if you shop around, you won't find better ways to use these bags.*

**Tip #241** Use them to pick up, um, pet poop. Put your hand in the bag, pick up the poop, and then pull the bag off over your hand. Tie it up and throw it away! Good riddance!

**Tip #242** Use old plastic shopping bags to line the small trash cans in your bathroom and home office.

**Tip #243** Now don't laugh—I know someone who's done this at least twice. In a pinch, you can put the bag over your head and tie it on as a shower cap.

**Tip #244** Use plastic shopping bags as packing material when you need to ship something breakable.

## Socks

*Sock it to me!*

**Tip #245** Use 'em to protect breakable items in storage.

**Tip #246** If your little rug rat is crawling all over, here's a way to help him protect his knees, keep his little legs warm, and reuse those old, adult-size socks, even after the toes or heels have worn out beyond repair. Cut off the foot part of each sock and slip the remaining part up over baby's legs, like pint-sized leg warmers. If you want these tiny leg warmers to last longer, just get out your needle and thread or a sewing machine and turn a hem under where you sliced off the foot.

**Tip #247** If you need to use a ladder indoors, protect your walls from scuff marks by slipping a sock over the top of each of the ladder ends.

**Tip #248** Old socks make great stuffing for homemade dolls and pillows.

**Tip #249** Can't find a potholder? No problem! Just grab a couple of orphaned socks, and use them instead.

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ Make your very own lunchbox. Paint a sturdy shoebox and seal it with acrylic. Use a belt or piece of twine to keep it closed. Then just fill 'er up!

### BONUS TIP

- ✓ Socks as exercise equipment? Sure! To make ankle weights, fill socks with raw rice, sand, or dried beans, and tie them shut. Remember to leave enough room in the toe so you can tie them around your ankles.

**Tip #250.** Turn an old sock into a toy for your feline. Put some catnip in the toe and tie off the top. Frisky will thank you!

**Tip #251** Got an icky place to clean, like under the refrigerator or stove? Slip an old sock over the end of a broom handle and slide it right under the appliance. No muss; no fuss!

**Tip #252** Save orphaned socks and slip them over the heads of your golf clubs to protect them.

**Tip #253** Protect your child's favorite stuffed animal in the washing machine by slipping it into an old sock, and then tying it shut.

**Tip #254** Planning a move? Save your orphaned socks and slip them over your glassware or lightbulbs.

## **Soda Bottles (plastic)**

*These ideas really pop!*

**Tip #255** Cut the top off a clean, liter-size bottle, and use it as a paint holder when you're touch-up painting.

**Tip #256** Cut the top and bottom off of an empty soda bottle and use it as a funnel. It'll really help with those messy jobs.

**Tip #257** Keep an empty soda bottle around to use as a candle holder when the power goes out. (Make sure to put a saucer underneath to catch any melting wax.)

**Tip #258** Place a liter-size soda bottle in leather boots to help them keep their shape and to help prevent the leather from cracking.

**Tip #259** Save your old plastic liter-size soda bottles. The night before you go out on a long walk on a hot day, fill the bottle with water and put it in the freezer. Next morning, take it out, and you'll have icy cold water all day!

## **Sponges**

*Absorb this dandy idea!*

**Tip #260** Looking for a way to jazz up a wall or an old piece of furniture? Use an old sponge instead of a brush to apply paint. Dab on one coat of paint with the sponge. After that coat dries dab on another color for a spatter look.

## **Plastic "Squirt" Bottles (mustard, ketchup, etc.)**

*Check out these sq(easy) ideas!*

**Tip #261** Wash out those old squirt bottles and use them to store your home-made salad dressing.

**Tip #262** Next time you make sundaes, fill a clean squeeze bottle with your hot fudge sauce, and decorating will be a breeze.

**Tip #263** Fill a squirt bottle with laundry soap, and use it to treat clothing stains.

**Tip #264** Fill a small squirt bottle (like the kind eye drops come in) with suntan lotion, and take it along when you go on a walk.

### **BONUS TIP**

✓ On the next hot, sunny day, fill some squirt bottles and use 'em for a wet and wild backyard water fight!

## **Suitcases, Trunks and Briefcases**

*Are your old suitcases gathering dust in your attic? For shame! Put them to work!*

**Tip #265** Use them as under-bed storage for your off-season clothes.

**Tip #266** Use old suitcases to store paperwork.

**Tip #267** If you have a very old or very interesting suitcase, use it as a decorative, or conversational element in a room.

**Tip #268** Next time you go on a trip with your kids or grandkids, load up an old briefcase with their toys. It'll make them feel important!

**Tip #269** Store tools in an old suitcase or briefcase and keep it in the trunk of your car in case of an emergency.

## **Take-Out Food Containers (plastic)**

*Here are two good reasons to order in tonight!*

**Tip #270** Use them to store leftovers.

**Tip #271** Use leftover food containers to organize your drawers. They can hold everything from office supplies to cookie cutters! (Just make sure the containers are clean.)



## Tennis Balls

***Tennis elbow keeping you from playing? Don't throw out those tennis balls—try these ideas.***

- Tip #272** Make a door stop. Cut a ball in half, and nail it to the baseboard behind a door to keep the door from banging against the wall.
- Tip #273** Protect a bumper hitch ball by slipping a cut tennis ball over it.
- Tip #274** Poke a hole through a tennis ball and run a pen or pencil through it so the point sticks out at one end. Just the thing for arthritic or small hands.
- Tip #275** Slice a hole in a half of a tennis ball and slide it over the handle of a paint brush to catch drips.

## Tires

***Tire(d) of those old tires? Here's how to use them.***

- Tip #276** Make a potato planter. Besides two or three tires (minus the rims), all you need is enough soil to fill them, some gravel (about a shovelful), and seed potatoes, which you can purchase from any old garden or seed supply store. Don't use the potatoes in the bag in your kitchen, they might not grow. Start off with two or three seed potatoes. Cut each one into several pieces, making sure that each piece has at least two "eyes" on it. Set the pieces out to dry for a day or two, and while you're waiting, hose out one of the tires and place it on the spot in the yard where you want to grow your spuds. Lay the gravel on the ground in the bottom of the tire and fill the hole with soil. Now all you do is plant the potato pieces and keep the soil moist. As the plants begin to grow, place the next tire (after you've washed it out, too) on top of the first, and add more soil to it—the more the plant grows, the more soil you add. When the second tire fills up, start a third. In a few months the spuds will be ready to harvest. To get to them, all you have to do is pull the tires off the stack! Easy as, um, spuds!
- Tip #277** A half-buried old truck/tractor tire makes a great playground piece.
- Tip #278** If you have old tires laying around the garage, put them someplace they'll do some good. Stand them along the end wall of the garage, opposite the entrance. That way, they'll be there if you under-estimate the distance or over-estimate your speed when you pull in.
- Tip #279** An old truck tire covered with a plastic tarp makes an instant wading pool for the kiddies on a hot day. Just add water.

## Toothbrushes

***I wouldn't lie! I'm tellin' the "tooth" when I say these are useful!***

- Tip #280** Use old toothbrushes to pretreat those deep-down, stubborn grass stains that kids seem to attract like magnets.
- Tip #281** Hold onto those old toothbrushes—they come in handy for cleaning the area where your sink meets your countertop.
- Tip #282** Old toothbrushes are perfect for cleaning all of the little tools on a dirty Swiss army knife.
- Tip #283** Toothbrushes make terrific grout cleaners!
- Tip #284** Keep your beard and mustache neat and tidy by giving it a brush with a clean, old toothbrush that's become too soft for your teeth.
- Tip #285** Use old toothbrushes to clean the removable knobs on your stove.
- Tip #286** When shucking corn, gently rub down the ear with an old toothbrush to get rid of any clinging strands of silk.
- Tip #287** Use an old, clean toothbrush as a travel nail brush.

## Toys

***Here's a playful idea!***

- Tip #288** Transform small toys into Christmas tree ornaments.

## Vinyl Records

***Does anybody even have a record player anymore?***

- Tip #289** If it's time to clean out the attic of old records, then it's time to make a clock from an old album (or even the cover.) You can find a battery-operated clock movement in your local hobby shop or home center. Some places even sell kits that include numbers as well. Fit the works through the hole in the LP or punch a hole in the dust jacket. This easy project makes a great gift for a music buff.
- Tip #290** For a really retro look, hang your vinyl LPs on the wall of your playroom or den!

## Window Screens

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***Take those holey screens out of retirement.***

- Tip #291** When your new window screens need to be patched, cut a scrap from an old screen. Place it over the hole and fit the wires into the new screen. It'll be as good as new!
- Tip #292** Protect seedbeds by laying an old window screen on top of them.
- Tip #293** Some plants don't like the heat—lettuce, for instance. Well, you can use your old window screens to protect them. Hold two screens together and tie them together at the top. Now separate the bottoms and place the screen tent over the plants. The screen protects the plants from the harsh sun, but it still allows rain to reach the plants.
- Tip #294** Old window screens make the perfect surface for cleaning any underground crops like potatoes, carrots, radishes, etc.

## Wire Dry Cleaner Hangers

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***These much-maligned items sure can come in handy!***

- Tip #295** Bend a hanger into an oval, and use it to stir paint.
- Tip #296** Take them back! Some dry cleaners will be thrilled to get their hangers returned to them.
- Tip #297** Turn the ends up, and you have a great place to hang muddy garden shoes, hats, gloves, etc. Hang this "dryer" in the basement or garage until the articles are dry. They'll dry faster this way because air can circulate in and around them.

## Wooden Scrub Brush

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***Wooden you just know that I'd have an idea for this item?***

- Tip #298** Leave that old wooden brush, bristles up, outside your front door and use it to scrape mud off your shoes.

## Wrapping Paper

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***I love getting presents, but what I love most of all is saving a bunch of money!***

- Tip #299** Remove it carefully and reuse it to wrap smaller gifts.
- Tip #300** Use it for your decoupage craft projects. They'll look lovely.
- Tip #301** Cut used gift-wrap in squares and use it as scrap paper.



# Don't You **DARE** Throw It **OUT!**

Are you up to your ears in "junk"? Well, hang on to your hats, folks, because good ol' Jerry Baker's gonna' show you 301 wild and wacky ways to use and reuse all those dust collectors. Get ready for some great hints, tips, and ideas that'll give your trash a whole new lease on life: .

- ❑ Tired of those old tires? They're great in the garden!
- ❑ Here's a suit-able carrying case for your tools (or toys)
- ❑ The hose knows—a great use for an old garden hose
- ❑ Don't throw that dryer lint out—put it to blazin' use
- ❑ I tell you toothfully—these are great household helpers
- ❑ Mag-nificent home decorations right under your nose
- ❑ Dandy decor: cardboard tubes and calendar pages

## About Jerry Baker...

Jerry Baker, America's foremost authority on lawn, garden, and plant care, has written over 50 books, including the bestsellers *Backyard Problem Solver*, *Kitchen Counter Cures*, and *Supermarket Super Products!* All of Jerry's books are jam-packed full of old-time advice, down-home wisdom, and the best remedies on earth. Jerry also has his own gardening specials on public television. For more of his amazing tips, tricks, and tonics, visit Jerry online at:



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